

8. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1, wherein said nutritionally balanced diet is selected from the group consisting of a dry diet and a wet diet.

9. (Reiterated) A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising:

(a) producing a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis; and

(b) feeding said diet to said obligate carnivore.

Ar N. (Once Amended) A method to prevent development of a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism [maintain the health of a healthy obligate carnivore], said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced diet [selected from the group consisting of: a nutritionally balanced diet] comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis[; and a nutritionally balanced diet comprising animal meat wherein the balance of nutrients in said animal meat approximates the balance of nutrients in a total animal carcass].

12. An animal food composition for protecting an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said composition comprising a nutritionally balanced diet having a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from

about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than 6% on a dry matter basis.

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13. (Once Amended) The method of Claim [12]11, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than 6% on a dry matter basis.

14. The composition of Claim 12, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 4% on a dry matter basis.

15. The composition of Claim 12, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 2% on a dry matter basis.

16. The composition of Claim 12, wherein said composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry composition and a wet composition.

18. A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced food composition that comprises a percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that is not more than the highest percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that will protect said obligate carnivore from said disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism.

Please add the following claims:

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22. (New) A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis.

Sub B5

23. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

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24. (New) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said composition prevents development of a disease selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

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cont.

25. (New) A method to treat diabetes mellitus in an obligate carnivore by decreasing exogenous insulin requirements of said obligate carnivore, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore an animal food composition of Claim 12.

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26. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

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Sub B7

27. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein protection comprises prevention of development of a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism.

28. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the specification as described above to add a cross-reference to co-pending U.S. Serial No. 60/098,911, filed September 2, 1998, to which the present application claims priority. Applicant asserts that the foregoing amendment is made merely to correct a typographical error in the original specification and therefore does not constitute new matter. In support of this position, Applicant has attached hereto a copy of the transmittal sheet filed with the present application, which reflects the original claim in priority to U.S. Serial No. 60/098,911. Accordingly, Applicant

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